



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
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LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

August 18, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OVERTIME REPORT BACK

This correspondence is in response to your Board's March 16, 2010, request for a bi-weekly status report on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) overtime curtailment efforts and its impact on Department operations.

The Department's overtime expenditures for the current period, July 1, 2010, through July 15, 2010, totaled \$4 million. Seventy-three percent of this expenditure is reimbursable through contracts, grants, or other revenue sources. Factoring out the reimbursable hours reduces the Department's actual monetary expenditure for overtime to \$1.05 million.

Beginning March 1, 2010, the Department implemented a wide array of cost-cutting measures which resulted in an impressive \$32 million in savings. As we enter the sixth month of our overtime reduction and cost saving efforts, it is clear the Department will have to go even further to reach our commitment to reduce the Department's budget by \$128 million prior to June 30, 2011.

In the coming months, the Cadre of Administrative Reserve Personnel (CARP) will redouble their efforts by stepping away from their regular duties (such as investigations, training, and community relations) even more often to fill line positions without the use of overtime. While this will mitigate the immediate impact of the cuts on public safety, there will undoubtedly be ever increasing backlogs in critical administrative and support functions which will hamper the Department's efficiency, delay investigations, and compromise our risk management efforts. The following are examples of the operational impacts which occurred since our last report.

A Tradition of Service

- Custody Operations Division (Custody) reports that staffing vacancies, many resulting behind employees who are off work due to illness, injury, or family leave have impacted their overtime usage. To reduce overtime expenditures, three barracks at Pitchess Detention Center South Facility were closed. This resulted in the curtailment of an additional 252 jail beds since our last report and allowed 15 deputies and 5 custody assistants to be redeployed within Custody to save overtime.
- Prior to Custody's budget reduction efforts, male misdemeanor offenders were serving approximately 80 percent of their jail sentences. To achieve the required budgetary and staffing curtailments, Custody closed 3,707 jail beds (from June 2009 to July 2010) which resulted in a reduction in the percentage of time served from 80 to 35 percent. It may become necessary to further reduce the percentage of time served by misdemeanor offenders to maintain the closures.
- As part of the Department's continuing effort to reduce overtime expenditures whenever possible, Custody managers evaluate each position on each shift and are often forced to curtail line positions in the furtherance of overtime reduction. As a result, 4,972 hours, or 621 shifts, went unfilled within the jail system during the last two weeks of July. These shortages are temporary and cannot be sustained for the long term without negative consequences. These curtailments can result in modified lockdowns of facilities, a reduction in services to inmates, a decrease in the number of staff members available for inmate supervision, and increased demands on existing personnel.
- Aero Bureau reports 100 requests for air support from patrol units went unanswered because overtime was not used to augment its flight operations. The requests which were handled unaided include: 19 robbery calls, 22 burglary calls, 6 requests for assistance by deputies, 10 reports of a man with a gun, 8 calls related to stolen vehicles, 3 assaults with a deadly weapon, 7 disturbances, 4 shots fired calls, 7 calls regarding prowlers or suspicious persons, 5 reports of domestic violence, 2 missing persons, 4 requests to check areas which were not accessible from the ground, 2 reports of vandalism, and 1 trespassing call.
- CARP continues to be a valuable tool in our overtime reduction efforts. Detective Division reports each of its bureaus continues to experience delays in conducting investigative follow-up due to the lack of overtime funds and the fulfillment of CARP obligations. During this reporting period, Major Crimes Bureau lost 192 hours of investigative time due to their investigators' participation in CARP.
- All Field Operations Regions report a continued increase in the number of open cases assigned to station detective bureaus. Investigators are fulfilling their CARP obligations and, as a result, have less time available to investigate and close cases. The number of open cases assigned to station detective bureaus

stood at 6,055 on February 28, 2010. That number grew to 10,230 by July 31, 2010, an increase of 69 percent.

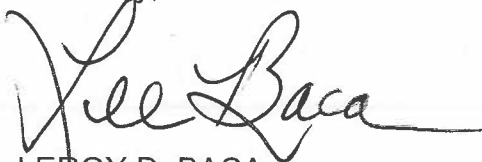
- Scientific Services Bureau (SSB) reports an increased backlog in fingerprint analysis. In January 2010, SSB reported 413 cases where latent fingerprints were awaiting entry into the Automated Fingerprint Index System (AFIS). As of July 31, 2010, the backlog of cases awaiting entry into AFIS increased to 697. Once the AFIS computer analysis is completed and a possible match is identified, the results must be compared by an analyst. The number of cases awaiting assignment to an analyst had more than doubled since January 2010, from 52 (36 of which were homicides) to 114 (70 of which were homicides). Cases that had been assigned to an analyst for comparison and were in progress increased from 51 to 62 cases.

The Department continues to experience increases in the amount of time required for deputies to respond to calls for service. Although some fluctuations in response times are to be expected based upon the conditions in effect at the time a call is received, the Department's overall response time to calls for service consistently remains higher than it was prior to our undertaking overtime reduction efforts.

- The average response time to an emergency call for service in calendar year 2009 was 4.9 minutes. During this reporting period, that time increased by 29 percent, to 6.3 minutes.
- The overall response time to priority calls increased by 5 percent, from 9.5 minutes in 2009, to 10 minutes during the last two weeks of July.
- Response times to routine calls for service increased from an average of 39.6 minutes in 2009, to 43.9, an increase of 11 percent.

While the Department remains committed to meeting our budgetary obligations, our efforts to compensate for the unprecedented cut of \$128 million is taking a toll on nearly all aspects of Department operations. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Division Director Victor Rampulla, Administrative Services Division, at (323) 526-5357.

Sincerely,



LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF